GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2184
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN BACKWARD AND RURAL AREAS
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways in the various States (particularly in backward and rural areas) where the work of widening, expansion and repairing has started during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) the amount spent on the said work during the said period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds for completion of work ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the work?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) Development and maintenance work on all the National Highways are not taken up on the basis of backwardness and passing through rural area or not but on the basis of condition, traffic inter-se priority and availability of funds.The names of all the National Highways are at Annexure-I. The Statewise details of number and amount of works sanctioned for the development of National Highways during last three years are at Annexure-II.

(b) The amount spent for development and maintenance of National Highways during last three years are at Annexure-III.

(c)&(d) The funds are provided according to the availability of funds.

(e) Development and maintenance of the National Highway is a continuous process.The target date of completion of project is decided based on the type, amount, specifications used and location of the project. The completion date varies from project to project.

(f) Regular monitoring of financial and physical progress of works is carried out with a view to removing bottlenecks. Quarterly review meetings are being held with the officers of the State Government for monitoring as well as removal of bottlenecks.In addition, the following steps are also being taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the implementation of National Highway Development Project:

(i) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving state related problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues which impede the progress of the work.

(iv) This Ministry has been authorized to issue notification for acquisition of land for National Highways without referring to the Ministry of Law.

(v)To expedite the construction of railway overbridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to coordinate with Ministry of Railways.

(vi) Punitive actions have been taken against non performing contractors.

(vii) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting financial assistance.